

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USBERLIN 2195

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GE, GW
SUBJECT: SPANGENBERG ON CURRENT BERLIN AND GERMAN-GERMAN QUESTIONS

1. AT 19 AUGUST LUNCHEON WITH ALLIED MINISTERS, FRG
PLENIPOTENTIARY SPANGENBERG SAID FOLLOWING THINGS OF INTEREST:

2. WISCHNEWSKI-KOHL. NEXT MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR
24 AUGUST, BUT KOHL ASKED FOR 5-DAY POSTPONEMENT TO DO MORE
HOME WORK. FRG IS HAPPY FOR DELAY FOR SAME REASON. ON
BERLIN ITEMS, WISCHNEWSKI INTENDS TELL KOHL THAT GDR PROPOSALS
ARE ALL UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT IN ADDITION CONSULTATION WITH
ALLIES IS REQUIRED ON SEVERAL. ON REICHSBAHN FARES, KOHL
TOLD WISCHNEWSKI THAT SOVIETS TOLD GDR ALLIES HAD AGREED TO
INCREASES IN BOTH FREIGHT AND PASSENGER FARES, AND THAT
BUNDESBahn REFUSAL TO START PAYING INCREASES IN BOTH IS
THEREFORE NOT UNDERSTANDABLE.

3. LORENZ TRIAL. SPANGENBERG SAID PARTICIPATION OF
OBERLE IS MOST DIFFICULT THING AMONG THOSE BEING SOUGHT
BY ALLIES, FOR TWO REASONS: (1) OBERLE DOES NOT HAVE
EXPERIENCE OR COMPETENCE TO CONDUCT TRIAL AND (2) AN
ATTEMPT TO GIVE HIM A COSMETIC LEADERSHIP ROLE WOULD

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GIVE DEFENSE CAUSE TO CHALLENGE VALIDITY OF AFFAIR.
SPANGENBERG SAID THAT SPEAKING PURELY ON PERSONAL BASIS
HE COULD VISUALIZE ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY OBERLE COULD PAR-
TICIPATE BY BEING IN COURT ROOM ON FIRST AND LAST DAY OF
TRIAL, BUT THAT WAS ABOUT ALL.

4. CDU-CSU IN BERLIN. CDU-CSU PLANS FRAKTION SESSION

IN BERLIN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, AND ABOUT 250 MEMBERS PLAN VISIT TO POTSDAM THEREAFTER, FOR WHICH PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED. AT RECENT MEETING, KOHL TOLD WISCHNEWSKI THAT GDR NOW DOES NOT WANT POTSDAM VISIT TO TAKE PLACE. REASON IS NOT TOO CLEAR, BUT SPANGENBERG SUPPOSES IT IS BECAUSE GDR OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT LIKE IDEA OF WEST BERLIN MEETING AND CONSIDERS POTSDAM VISIT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO SWALLOW. WISCHNEWSKI TOLD KOHL THAT WITHDRAWAL OF PERMISSION WOULD CAUSE BIG TROUBLE AND URGED GDR RECONSIDERATION.

5. FRG BUYOUT OF GDR DISSIDENTS. SPANGENBERG SAID THAT HE HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH GDR ATTORNEY VOGEL, TO TALK ABOUT THE CARRYING OUT OF AN ARRANGEMENT DISCUSSED TELEPHONICALLY BETWEEN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND GDR CHIEF HONECKER. THERE ARE ABOUT 50 DISSIDENTS IN PRISON, UNDER TRIAL, OR AT SOME STAGE OF INVESTIGATORY CUSTODY IN GDR, ACCORDING TO SPANGENBERG. PLAN IS TO BRING THEM ALL TO BERLIN AND TO ASK THEM INDIVIDUALLY WHETHER THEY WISH STAY IN GDR OR GO TO FRG. THOSE ELECTING TO GO WILL BE ALLOWED DO SO. FINANCIAL COMPENSATION WILL BE MADE TO GDR, SPANGENBERG SAID, "IN USUAL WAY", WITH WEST BERLIN ATTORNEY STANGE WORKING OUT DETAILS WITH VOGEL. GEORGE

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